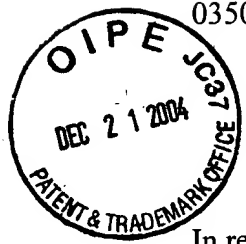


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: Jeffrey Siew
NOBUKO YAMAMOTO ET AL.)
: Group Art Unit: 1637
Application No.: 09/942,588)
:
Filed: August 31, 2001)
:
For: SCREENING METHOD FOR)
GENE VARIATION : December 16, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

A. Introductory Comments

I. Applicants petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated June 16, 2004 for three (3) month, from September 16, 2004 to December 16, 2004. A check in the amount of \$1020.00 for payment of the extension fee is enclosed. Please charge any additional fee required for the extension, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 06-1205.

12/22/2004 YPOLITE1 00000023 09942588

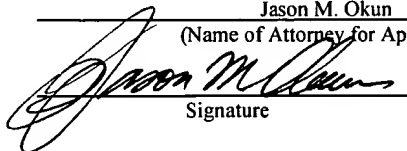
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

December 16, 2004
(Date of Deposit)

Jason M. Okun
(Name of Attorney for Applicants)


Signature

December 16, 2004
Date of Signature

II. This is in response to the Office Action dated June 16, 2004, the period for reply having been extended by the above petition and payment of the extension fee. Please amend the application as follows and consider the following remarks.